

In The Claims:

1 1. A method for transmitting
2 communications signals to a plurality of mobile
3 terminals, comprising:
4 processing a received signal at a ground
5 hub;
6 radiating said signal through multiple
7 paths to at least two satellites;
8 re-radiating said signal from said at least
9 two satellites to an intended mobile terminal;
10 perturbing the inclination and eccentricity
11 of said at least two satellites relative to the same
12 geosynchronous reference orbit;
13 whereby the periods of geosynchronous
14 orbits of said at least two satellites remain
15 substantially constant.

1 2. The method of claim 1, further
2 comprising:
3 radiating a signal from said intended
4 mobile terminal to said at least two perturbed
5 satellites;
6 re-radiating said signal from said at least
7 two perturbed satellites to said ground hub.

1 3. The method of claim 2, further
2 comprising:
3 determining a relationship between said
4 inclination and said eccentricity of said satellites

5 such that they appear to move at a constant speed
6 along circular paths whose centers are located at the
7 position of a hypothetical reference satellite in an
8 unperturbed geosynchronous orbit.

1 4. The method of claim 3, further
2 comprising:

3 maintaining the geometry of said cluster of
4 at least two satellites such that the distances
5 between any two of said satellites is relatively
6 constant.

1 5. The method of claim 4, further
2 comprising:

3 adding additional satellites to said at
4 least two satellites to augment the satellite
5 constellation.

1 6. The method of claim 4, wherein the
2 conditions for circular apparent motion of the
3 perturbed satellite relative to said satellite
4 constellation center is approximated by the
5 following:

$$6 \quad \begin{array}{l} \sin i = 2\varepsilon \\ t_p = \pm \frac{1}{2} T_{GRO} \end{array}$$

1 7. A mobile wireless communication
2 system, comprising:

3 a satellite constellation consisting of a
4 plurality of satellites each in a slightly perturbed
5 geosynchronous orbit;

6 each of said plurality of satellites being
7 capable of relaying signals between the ground hub
8 and the plurality of user terminals in either
9 direction;

10 whereby as said satellite constellation
11 appears to rotate the apparent inter-satellite
12 spatial relationships are maintained.

1 8. The mobile wireless communication
2 system of claim 7, wherein each of said plurality of
3 satellites has its inclination and eccentricity
4 perturbed relative to a common geosynchronous
5 reference orbit.

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2 9. The mobile wireless communication
3 system of claim 8, wherein the orbit of each of said
4 plurality of satellites is perturbed such that it
5 appears to move at a constant speed along a circular
6 path as viewed by a single user.

1 10. The mobile wireless communication
2 system of claim 7, wherein the respective distances
3 among the said plurality of satellites is
4 substantially constant.

1 11. The mobile wireless communication
2 system of claim 9, wherein the conditions for
3 circular apparent motion of the perturbed satellite
4 relative to said satellite constellation center is
5 approximated by the following:

$$\sin i = 2\epsilon$$

$$t_o = \pm \frac{1}{4} T_{GSO}$$

12. The mobile wireless communication system of claim 7, wherein in order for coherent reception of signals by their intended user, said intended user's location must be determined to within a specified tolerance ϵ_x , which is determined according to the following equation:

$$\epsilon_x < \frac{\epsilon_{tol} \lambda_{min} r_{min}}{\Delta J_{x_{max}}}$$

13. The mobile wireless communication system of claim 7, wherein in order for incoherent reception of signals from interfering (non-intended) users, said interfering users must be displaced at least a distance

$$\Delta x_{min} \geq \frac{cr_{max}}{2W_N \epsilon \Delta D_{x_{min}}}$$

from the user receiving the signal

14. The mobile wireless communication system of claim 11, wherein the apparent motions of said plurality of satellites in said satellite constellation can be arranged to appear circular as perceived from any one point in the coverage area.

15. A method for establishing a link between a ground hub and a plurality of mobile terminals, comprising:

4 preprocessing a received signal at said
5 ground hub;

6 transmitting said signal through a
7 plurality of satellites in a satellite constellation
8 to an intended one of the mobile terminals;

9 perturbing the inclination and eccentricity
10 of said plurality of satellites relative to a common
11 geosynchronous reference orbit; and

12 determining a relationship between said
13 inclination and said eccentricity of said plurality
14 of satellites such that they appear to move at a
15 constant speed along circular paths where centers are
16 located at a position defined by a hypothetical
17 reference satellite in an unperturbed geosynchronous
18 orbit.

1 16. The method of claim 15, further
2 comprising:

3 maintaining the periods of geosynchronous
4 orbit of said plurality of satellites substantially
5 constant.

1 17. The method of claim 15, further
2 comprising:

3 maintaining the apparent inter-satellite
4 spatial relationships between said plurality of
5 satellites as they appear to rotate.

1 18. The method of claim 15, wherein said
2 relationship is approximated by the following:

$$\sin i = 2\varepsilon$$

$$t_o = \pm \frac{1}{4} T_{GKO}$$

19. The method of claim 15 wherein in order for incoherent reception of signals from interfering (non-intended) users, said interfering users must be displaced at least a distance

$$\Delta X_{MIN} \geq \frac{C_{r_{MAX}}}{2W_N \delta \Delta D_{XMIN}}$$

from the user receiving the signal.

20. The method of claim 15, wherein in order for coherent reception of signals by their intended user, said intended user's location must be determined to within a specified tolerance ε_x , which is determined according to the following equation:

$$\varepsilon_x \propto \frac{C_{tol} \tau_{min} r_{min}}{\Delta_{xmin}}$$